



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Kenji NISHI et al.**

Group Art Unit: **2851**

Serial No.: **10/718,728**

Examiner: **Hung Henry V. Nguyen**

Filed: **November 24, 2003**

Confirmation No.: **1835**

For: **AN EXPOSURE APPARTUS, EXPOSURE METHOD USING THE  
SAME, AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF CIRCUIT DEVICE**

Attorney Docket Number: **991185B**

Customer Number: **38834**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

January 14, 2005

Sir:

The attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached PTO/1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee. A check is attached hereto which covers the \$ 180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

The undersigned hereby certifies:

☒ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any

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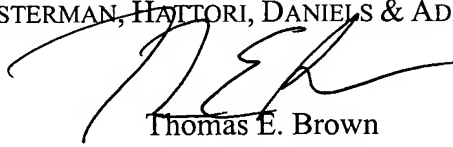
individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO/1449 is made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

In accordance with M.P.E.P section 609(A)(3), it is respectfully submitted that the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by the submission of the English version of the European Search Report which indicates the degree of relevance found by the European Patent Office.

The Commission is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,  
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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449</b>	Priority Docket No. 991185B	Serial No 10/718,728
	Applicant(s): Kenji NISHI, et al.	
	Filing Date: November 24, 2003	Group Art Unit: 2851

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
		5,532,497	Yasuzato, et al.	7/1996			

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
		62-204527	9/9/1987	Japan	Yes (abstract)

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

		Copy of Supplementary European Search Report dated November 9, 2004
Examiner		Date Considered